

PRE

The PRESENT. An elliptical expression for the *present* time; the time now existing.

When he saw descend
The son of God to judge them, terrify'd
He fled; not hoping to escape, but shun
The *present*; fearing guilty, what his wrath
Might suddenly inflict. *Milton.*
Men that set their hearts only upon the *present*, without
looking forward into the end of things are struck at. *L'Estr.*
Who, since their own short understandings reach
No further than the *present*, think ev'n the wife,
Speak what they think, and tell tales of themselves. *Rowe.*
At PRESENT. [*à present*, Fr.] At the present time; now;
elliptically, for the *present* time.
The state is at *present* very sensible of the decay in their
trade. *Addison.*

PRESENT. *n. f.* [*present*, Fr. from the verb.]
1. A gift; a donative; something ceremoniously given.
Plain Clarence!

I will send thy soul to heav'n,
If heav'n will take the *present* at our hands. *Shakespeare.*
His dog to-morrow, by his master's command, he must
carry for a *present* to his lady. *Shakespeare.*
He sent part of the rich spoil, with the admiral's ensign, as
a *present* unto Solymán. *Knolly's Hist. of the Turks.*
Say heav'nly muse, shall not thy sacred vein
Afford a *present* to the infant God?
Hast thou no verse, no hymn, no solemn strain,
To welcome him to this his new abode?
They that are to love inclin'd,
Sway'd by chance, not choice or art
To the first that's fair or kind,
Make a *present* of their heart. *Waller.*
Somewhat is sure design'd by fraud or force;
Trust not their *present*s, nor admit the horse. *Dryden.*
2. A letter or mandate exhibited.
Be it known to all men by these *present*s. *Shakespeare.*

TO PRESENT. *v. a.* [*presento*, low Lat. *presenter*, Fr. in all
the senses.]

1. To place in the presence of a superior.
On to the sacred hill
They led him high applauded, and *present*
Before the seat supreme. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. vi.*
2. To exhibit to view or notice.
He knows not what he says; and vain is it,
That we *present* us to him. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*
3. To offer; to exhibit.
Thou therefore now advise,
Or hear what to my mind first thoughts *present*. *Milton.*
Now ev'ry leaf, and ev'ry moving breath
Presents a foe, and ev'ry foe a death. *Denham.*
Lectorides's memory is ever ready to offer to his mind
something out of other men's writings or conversations, and
is *presenting* him with the thoughts of other persons perpetually.
Watts's Improvement of the Mind.

4. To give formally and ceremoniously.
Folks in mudwall tenement,
Affording pepper-corn for rent,
Present a turkey or a hen
To those might better spare their ten. *Prior.*
5. To put into the hands of another.
So ladies in romance assist their knight,
Present the spear, and arm him for the fight. *Dryden.*
6. To favour with gifts. To *present*, in the sense of to give,
has several structures: we say absolutely, to *present* a man, to
give something to him. This is less in use. The common
phrases are to *present* a gift to a man; or, to *present* the man
with a gift.

Thou spendest thy time in waiting upon such a great one,
and thy estate in *presenting* him; and, after all, halt no other
reward, but sometimes to be smiled upon, and always to be
smiled at. *South's Sermons.*

He now *presents*, as ancient ladies do,
That courted long, at length are forc'd to woo. *Dryden.*
Octavia *presented* the poet, for his admirable elegy on her
son Marcellus. *Dryden.*
O how thy rising heart would throb and beat.
To prefer to ecclesiastical benefices.

7. To prefer to ecclesiastical benefices.
That he put these bishops in the places of the deceased by
his own authority, is notoriously false; for the duke of Saxony
always *presented*. *Atterbury.*

8. To offer openly.
He was appointed admiral, and *presented* battle to the
French navy, which they refused. *Hayward.*

9. To introduce by something exhibited to the view or notice.
Not in use.
Tell on, quoth she, the woful tragedy,
The which these reliques sad *present* unto. *Spenser.*

10. To lay before a court of judicature, as an object of en-
quiry.
The grand juries were practised effectually with to *present*
the said pamphlet, with all aggravating epithets. *Swift.*

PRESENTATION. *n. f.* [*presentation*, Fr. from *present*.]
1. The act of presenting.
Prayers are sometimes a *presentation* of mere desires, as a
mean of procuring desired effects at the hands of God. *Hooker.*
2. The act of offering any one to an ecclesiastical benefice.
He made effectual provision for recovery of advowsons and
presentations to churches. *Wals.*
What, shall the curate controul me? have not I the *pre-*
sentation? *Cay.*

3. Exhibition.
These *presentations* of fighting on the stage, are necessary
to produce the effects of an heroic play. *Dryden.*
4. This word is misprinted for *presentation*.
Although in sundry animals, we deny not a kind of natural
meteorology, or innate *presentation* both of wind and weather,
yet that proceeding from sense, they cannot retain that ap-
prehension after death. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

PRESENTATIVE. *adj.* [from *present*.] Such as that *presenta-*
tions may be made of it.
Mrs. Gullston possessor of the improper parsonage of Bar.
well, did procure from the king leave to annex the same to
the vicarage, and to make it *presentative*, and gave them both
to St. John's College in Oxon. *Spelman.*

PRESENTEE. *n. f.* [from *présenté*, Fr.] One presented to a
benefice.
Our laws make the ordinary a disturber, if he does not
give institution upon the fitness of a person presented to him,
or at least give notice to the patron of the disability of his
presentee. *Ayliffe's Paragon.*

PRESENTER. *n. f.* [from *present*.] One that presents.
The thing was acceptable, but not the *presenter*. *L'Estr.*

PRESENTIAL. *adj.* [from *présent*.] Supposing actual presence.
By union, I do not understand that which is local or *pre-*
sential, because I consider God as omnipresent. *Norris.*

PRESENTIALITY. *n. f.* [from *présential*.] State of being
present.
This eternal, indivisible act of his existence makes all
futures actually present to him; and it is the *presentiality* of
the object, which founds the unerring certainty of his know-
ledge. *South's Sermons.*

TO PRESENTIATE. *v. a.* [from *présent*.] To make present.
The fancy may be so strong, as to *presentiate* upon one
theatre, all that ever it took notice of in times past: the
power of fancy, in *presentiating* any one thing that is past,
being no less wonderful, than having that power, it should
also acquire the perfection to *presentiate* them all. *Grew.*

PRESENTIFICK. *adj.* [*présens* and *facio*, Latin.] Making
present. Not in use.

PRESENTIFICKLY. *adv.* [from *présentifick*.] In such a manner
as to make present.
The whole evolution of times and ages, from everlasting to
everlasting, is collectively and *presentifickly* represented to God
at once, as if all things and actions were, at this very instant,
really present and existent before him. *Mure.*

PRESENTLY. *adv.* [from *présent*.]
1. At present; at this time; now.
The towns and forts you *presently* have, are still left unto
you to be kept either with or without garrisons, so as you
alter not the laws of the country. *Sidney.*
I hope we may presume, that a rare thing it is not in the
church of God, even for that very word which is read to be
presently their joys, and afterwards their study that hear it.
Hooker, b. v. f. 2.
To speak of it as requireth, would require very long dis-
course; all I will *presently* say is this. *Hooker, b. i. f. 10.*
Covetous ambition, thinking all too little which *presently*
it hath, supposeth itself to stand in need of all which it hath
not. *Raleigh's Essays.*

2. Immediately; soon after.
Tell him, that no history can match his policies, and *pre-*
sently the lot shall measure himself by himself. *South.*

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My dazzling spells into the spongy air,
Of power to cheat the eye with bleat illusion,
And give it false *presentments*, left the place
And my quaint habits breed astonishment. *Milton.*
3. In law, *presentment* is a mere denunciation of the jurors them-
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